

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a sensor portion including a plurality of pixels;

an optical black portion including a plurality of optical black pixels;

a scanning circuit effecting scanning for reading out signals of said sensor portion and said optical black portion; and

a decoder for dividing said scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and outputting a start pulse to ~~a desired one of the plurality of blocks causing said scanning circuit to cause~~ scanning to start at ~~the desired block~~ a desired one of the plurality of blocks,

wherein said scanning circuit and said decoder are arranged such that a signal is transmitted from said scanning circuit to said decoder causing said decoder to ~~start operation thereof~~ output the start pulse in response to the signal, after said scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of said optical black portion.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein upon receiving a reset pulse, said scanning circuit stops scanning.

Claim 12 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 10,
further comprising:
a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;
an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion
into digital signals; and
a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D
converter.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 11,
further comprising:
a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;
an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion
into digital signals; and
a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D
converter.